



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 30, 2007

H.R. 1834

A bill to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 28, 2007

SUMMARY

H.R. 1834 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out programs on ocean exploration and undersea research programs. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of nearly \$300 million over the 2008-2012 period and nearly \$760 million over the 2008-2017 period.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1834 would cost \$30 million in 2008 and \$260 million over the 2008-2012 period. We estimate that about \$500 million would be spent after 2012, including \$460 million authorized to be appropriated after 2012. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1834 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1834 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level ^a	49	54	59	65	71
Estimated Outlays	30	45	55	62	68

- a. NOAA's National Ocean Service received appropriations of around \$600 million in 2007, including funding for some activities that are similar to the exploration, research, and mapping programs that would be authorized by H.R. 1834. In addition to the amounts shown in the table, the bill would authorize funding of about \$460 million over the 2013-2017 period. In total, the bill would authorize appropriations of nearly \$760 million over the 2008-2017 (10-year) period.
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BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the beginning of 2008 and that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs.

The authorization levels in the table are as specified in the bill for fiscal years 2008 through 2012, including between \$31 million and \$45 million per year for ocean exploration and between \$18 million and \$26 million per year for undersea research.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1834 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO COST ESTIMATE

On March 23, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 39, the Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN Act), as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on February 13, 2007. The provisions of S. 39 regarding ocean exploration and undersea research are similar to those in H.R. 1834. The CBO estimates for those provisions reflect differences in the authorization levels for the affected programs.

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